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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : William FORD et al.

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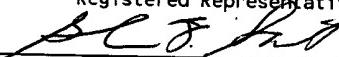
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Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)
AND CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the

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attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued in the corresponding European application on March 12, 2002, a copy of which is enclosed. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

As is apparent in said Search Report, applicants' undersigned attorney hereby certifies pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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